

Salem Oak Diner
New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail
113 West Broadway (State Route 49)
Salem
Salem County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-1157

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17-SAL
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

SALEM OAK DINER

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Location: 113 West Broadway (State Route 49), Salem, Salem County, New Jersey

Significance: This Art Deco roadside eatery is an unaltered example of a classic Silk City Diner, with its streamlined metal siding and neon signage.

Description: This one-story rectangular diner is typical of this building type, with a flat roof and banded fenestration. It sits on a brick foundation and has a concrete-block chimney. A projecting central bay accessed by four steps forms the entrance. The primary facades are clad with metal arranged with a horizontal emphasis. There are two one-story concrete-block additions to the rear, which serve as a kitchen and additional dining space. Red and white metal awnings with scalloped edges wrap around the facade above the windows. A prominent neon sign with a large oak leaf on the roof reads "Salem Oak DINER."

History: Built in 1954 by the Silk City Diner Company, and manufactured in Paterson, New Jersey, the diner is presumably named after the 88'-tall landmark Salem oak tree across the street. Located inside the burial ground of the Friends Meeting House, the impressive *Thisauercus Alba* is an estimated 400 to 500 years old. It is believed that John Fenwick made a treaty with the Indians under this tree in 1675.

Sources:

Broadway Historic District National Register nomination, ref #92000098 (5 March 1992).

Project Information: The project was sponsored by the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail (NJCHT) of the National Park Service, Janet Wolf, director. The documentation was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), Robert Kapsch, chief, under the direction of Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian. The project was completed during summer 1992. The project historian was Kimberly R. Sebold (University of Delaware). The photography was produced by David Ames, University of Delaware, Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering.